

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 150**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 11, 2009

Sponsored by:

Senator SEAN T. KEAN

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator FRED H. MADDEN, JR.

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

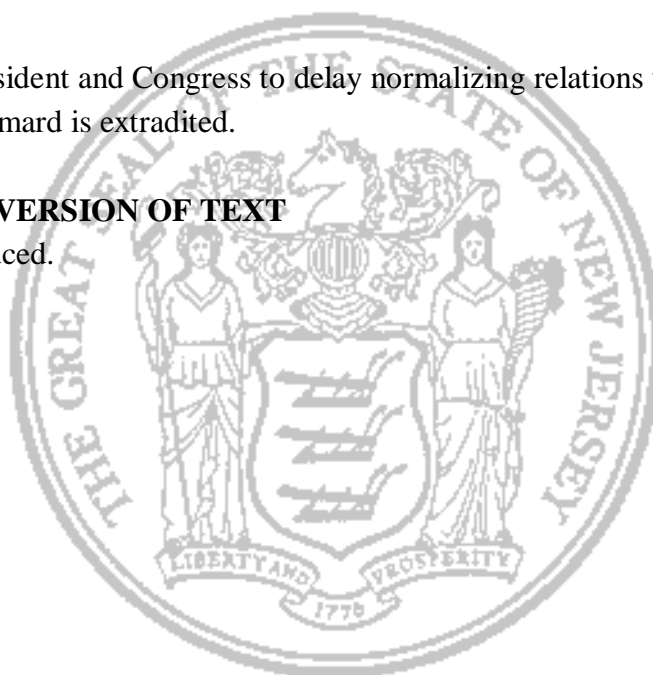
Senators Van Drew, Karrow, Haines, Ciesla, Pennacchio, Beck, Cardinale, Connors, Bucco, Oroho, Kyrillos, Rice, Gordon, Singer, Baroni, Sacco, Allen, Bateman, O'Toole, T.Kean, Beach, Sweeney, B.Smith, Buono, Whelan, Scutari, Sarlo, Stack, Girgenti and Codey

SYNOPSIS

Urges President and Congress to delay normalizing relations with Cuba until Joanne Chesimard is extradited.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the President and Congress to
 2 delay normalizing relations with Cuba until Joanne Chesimard is
 3 extradited.

4
 5 **WHEREAS**, Joanne Chesimard, also known as Assata Shakur, was
 6 convicted in 1977 of the May 2, 1973 murder of New Jersey State
 7 Trooper Werner Foerster and wounding of New Jersey State
 8 Trooper James Harper during a shoot-out on the New Jersey
 9 Turnpike, and was sentenced to life in prison; and

10 **WHEREAS**, After being pulled over for a routine traffic stop, Ms.
 11 Chesimard and fellow members of the radical Black Liberation
 12 Army opened fire on Troopers Foerster and Harper, and Ms.
 13 Chesimard eventually killed Trooper Foerster reportedly “execution
 14 style,” by shooting him in the head as he lay wounded by gunfire;
 15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, In 1979, Ms. Chesimard escaped from a maximum security
 17 cell at the Reformatory for Women in Clinton, New Jersey, and
 18 later fled to Cuba, where she was granted political asylum and has
 19 lived ever since; and

20 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey citizens were shocked and outraged to view
 21 television interviews showing Ms. Chesimard living freely in Cuba,
 22 portraying herself as the victim, and denying that she participated in
 23 any crimes against Trooper Foerster; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Several attempts have been made to diplomatically bring
 25 Ms. Chesimard back to the United States, including House
 26 Concurrent Resolution 254 of 1998, which called on Cuba to
 27 extradite Ms. Chesimard, and efforts by law enforcement to procure
 28 Ms. Chesimard’s extradition; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Although the United States and Cuba have a
 30 longstanding history of tension and confrontation, recent events
 31 have signaled the beginning of the United States implementing a
 32 less strict policy towards Cuba, specifically the easing of
 33 economic sanctions on Cuba and the easing of travel restrictions
 34 on Cuban Americans traveling to Cuba; and

35 **WHEREAS**, By aiding and abetting this cold-blooded killer, Cuba has
 36 insulted our State Police and all members of the law enforcement
 37 community, and has interfered with the ability of Ms. Chesimard to
 38 be brought to justice for the murder of a dedicated law enforcement
 39 officer; now, therefore,

40
 41 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*
 42 *General Assembly concurring):*

43
 44 1. The President and Congress are respectfully urged to delay
 45 normalizing relations with Cuba until Joanne Chesimard is
 46 extradited.

1 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
2 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly
3 and attested by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the
4 General Assembly, shall be transmitted to the President and Vice-
5 President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of
6 the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the
7 United States House of Representatives, and every member of
8 Congress elected from this State.

9
10
11 STATEMENT
12

13 This concurrent resolution respectfully urges the President and
14 Congress to delay normalizing relations with Cuba until Joanne
15 Chesimard is extradited.

16 Ms. Chesimard was convicted in 1977 of the May 2, 1973
17 murder of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster and wounding
18 of New Jersey State Trooper James Harper during a shoot-out on
19 the New Jersey Turnpike, and was sentenced to life in prison. In
20 1979, Ms. Chesimard escaped from a New Jersey prison and later
21 fled to Cuba, where she was granted political asylum and has lived
22 freely ever since.

23 By aiding and abetting this cold-blooded killer, Cuba has
24 insulted our State Police and all members of the law enforcement
25 community, and has interfered with the ability of Ms. Chesimard to
26 be brought to justice for the murder of a dedicated law enforcement
27 officer.